

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT



(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference		FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP 03/13571	International filing date (day/month/year) 01.12.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 19.12.2002	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC D06L1/12			
Applicant UNILEVER N.V.			

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.
 - ☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 1 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
 - I ☒ Basis of the opinion
 - II ☐ Priority
 - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
 - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
 - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 23.04.2004	Date of completion of this report 17.03.2005
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer Fiocco, M Telephone No. +31 70 340-4538 

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/EP 03/13571**

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-37 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

4-10 as originally filed

1-3 received on 08.12.2004 with letter of 07.12.2004

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
 - ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
 - ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).
3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:
- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 - ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 - ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

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International application No. **PCT/EP 03/13571**

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-10
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-10
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-10
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

- 1 Reference is made to the following document:

D1: WO 02/46517 A (GEN ELECTRIC) 13 June 2002 (2002-06-13)

2 **INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1**

The document **D1** is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 1, and shows (cf. **example 2**) a dry cleaning process from which the subject-matter of claim 1 differs in that the low aqueous composition comprises 0.1 to 0.7 wt.% of water. The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

The technical effect deriving from the claimed amount of water is that the colour fading of the cleaned items is minimized.

The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as to find a low aqueous dry cleaning process in which dye fading or damage are minimized.

The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons: although it is suggested in D1 that the amount of water in the composition can be from 0.2 to 10 wt.% (cf. **page 2, lines 15-24**), there is no suggestion that dye damage can be minimized by using the amount of water claimed in the present invention. The selection of the claimed amount of water from the broader range given in D1 is considered to involve an inventive step as it produces an unexpected effect.

3 **DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-10**

Claims 2-10 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

ART 34 AMDT

38

EPO - DG 1

08.12.2004

Claims

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1. A dry cleaning process for in-home dry cleaning comprising a low aqueous dry cleaning step of contacting a laundry article with a low aqueous dry cleaning composition wherein the liquor to cloth ratio (w/w) (LCR) is at most ¹⁰~~20~~, and
- 10 wherein said low aqueous composition comprises
- a) at least one non-flammable, non-chlorine containing organic dry cleaning solvent;
- b) ^{0.1}~~0.01~~ to ^{0.7}~~0.9~~ wt.% water and
- c) a cleaning effective amount of a surfactant wherein said
- 15 surfactant comprises at least one anionic headgroup.
2. A dry cleaning process for in-home dry cleaning according to claim 1 wherein the surfactant is an acid.
- 20 3. A dry cleaning process for in-home dry cleaning according to any one of the preceding claims whereby said liquid to cloth ratio (w/w) is at most ~~10~~ 7.
- 25 4. A dry cleaning process for in-home dry cleaning according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the process further comprises a non-aqueous dry cleaning step wherein the laundry article is contacted with a non-aqueous dry cleaning composition, said
- 30 non-aqueous dry cleaning composition comprising
- 0.001 to 10 wt.% of a surfactant;
- 0 to 0.01 wt.% of water;
- 0 to 50 wt.% of a cosolvent and